

**Examiner's Amendment**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
  
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Marina Portnova (Registration number: 45,750), on 3/4/09.
  
3. The claims have been amended as follows:
  1. A method comprising:

receiving a request to transition control to a virtual machine (VM) from a virtual machine monitor (VMM);

determining that the request to transition control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on accessing a pending event indicator maintained by the VMM and determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set to a delivery value;

transitioning control to the VM;

performing an event window check to determine whether the VM has an open event window;

if the event window check indicates that the VM has an open event window, transitioning control to the VMM; and

if the VM does not have an open event window, repeating the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has an open event window.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein transitioning control to the VMM comprises informing the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

3 – 4. (Cancelled)

5. The method of claim 4 1 wherein the event window check is initially performed before the VM executes any instructions.

6. The method of claim 4 1 wherein the event window check is initially performed after the VM executes a first instruction.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
prior to determining that the VM has an open event window,  
detecting a higher priority event associated with a transition of control to the VMM,  
transitioning control to the VMM; and

informing the VMM that control is transitioned due to the higher priority event.

8 – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a data structure controlled by a virtual machine monitor (VMM), the data structure storing a pending event indicator associated with a pending event;

open window logic to

receive a request to transition control from the VMM to a virtual machine (VM),

determine that the request to transition control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on accessing a pending event indicator maintained by the VMM and determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set to a delivery value,

transition control to the VM,

determine whether an event window of the VM is open,

transition control to the VMM if the event window of the VM is open; and if the VM does not have an open event window, repeat the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has the open event window.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the open window monitoring logic is further to inform the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

17. (Canceled)

18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the determining whether the event window of the VM is open is initially performed before the VM executes any instructions.

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a memory to store one or more pending event indicators; and  
a processor, coupled to the memory, to use the one or more pending event indicators to:

receive a request to transition control from a virtual machine  
monitor (VMM) to a virtual machine (VM);

determine that the request to transition control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on  
accessing the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM and  
determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set  
to a delivery value;

transition control to the VM in response to the request to transition control to the VM from the VMM;

perform an event window check to determine whether an event window of the VM is open;

transition control to the VMM if the event window check indicates that the event window of the VM is open; and

if the VM does not have an open event window, repeat the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has the open event window.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the processor is further to inform the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

21-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium containing instructions which, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a request to transition control to a virtual machine (VM) from a virtual machine monitor (VMM);

determining that the request to transition control is associated with a request to be informed of an open event window of the VM, based on accessing a pending event indicator maintained by the VMM and determining that the pending event indicator maintained by the VMM is set to a delivery value; transitioning control to the VM; performing an event window check to determine whether the VM has an open event window; if the event window check indicates that the VM has an open event window, transitioning control to the VMM; and if the VM does not have an open event window, repeating the event window check after each instruction executed by the VM until determining that the VM has an open event window.

26. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 25 wherein transitioning control to the VMM comprises informing the VMM that control is transitioned to the VMM due to an open event window of the VM.

27 – 30. (Canceled)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CAMQUY TRUONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3773. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng Ai An can be reached on (703)305-9678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Meng-Ai An/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195

Camquy Truong

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